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CURRENT LITERATURE

MINOR NOTICES

Fungous diseases and insect pests.—In a small volume issued as one of the Cambridge Farm Institute Series, PETHERBRIDGE¹ gives a popular account of the more common fungous diseases and insect pests of farm crops. The book is designed to be helpful to farmers and others who wish to acquire a knowledge of such things. The treatment is very elementary, but sufficiently extensive to give the uninitiated some idea of the nature of fungi and insects and their relation to agricultural crops. The text is nearly equally apportioned between the two main divisions of the subject-matter. The first division deals with fungi and fungous diseases, and the second with insect pests. Each division is introduced by a general chapter giving in each case a brief description of fungi, their mode of life, and the part they play in crop economy; and in the second part a general account of the structure, life histories, and habits of insects. In the special chapters the plan is followed of describing in detail some of the representative types of fungi and insects, as for instance, *Erysiphe graminis* as an example of the mildews, and grouping around them others of similar nature. An idea of the scope of the work can best be gained from the chapter headings, as follows: Introduction to fungi; Potato diseases and allied diseases; Finger and toe, and wart disease; Mildews; Ergot and clover sickness; Rusts; Smuts; Introduction to insects; Butterflies and moths; Beetles; Flies; Aphids and sawflies; Eelworms.

The book is written in a clear style and it will undoubtedly prove useful to the farmers of England in enabling them to identify the common insect and fungous diseases, and to find means of combating them. In the more extensive and diversified agriculture of the United States, where a vast special literature dealing with each particular condition is already available to the farmer, the book would find little application.—H. HASSELBRING.

Flora of the Northern Territory of Australia.—EWART and DAVIES² have published a flora of the large area known as the Northern Territory of Australia, not merely as a contribution to taxonomy, but also as an indication of "the fertility of the soil, the moisture conditions, and the fodder or other values of

¹ PETHERBRIDGE, F. R., Fungoid and insect pests of the farm. Cambridge. 1918.

² EWART, ALFRED J., and DAVIES, OLIVE B., The flora of the Northern Territory. 8vo. viii+387. pls. 27. Melbourne. 1917.